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BOOK REVIEWS.

AN EPITOME OF PERSONAL PROPERTY LAW. By W. H. HASTINGS KELKE. London: Sweet & Maxwell, Limited, 3 Chancery Lane.

In a little book of 144 pages the author gives us a brief but comprehensive summary of the law of "things." It is intended as a sequel to and complement of an "Epitome of Real Property Law," from the same pen and forms one of the series of students' law books, which Maxwell & Co. have recently been getting out. Taken as a whole the book seems to us likely to prove far more useful to the active practitioner than to the students, for whose service it is primarily designed. Our reason for this assertion is that, as is the case with all "epitomes," it covers the ground with haste and pays but slight attention to detail. It is not enough in our judgment for a legal writer to state general rules and their main qualifications; but we consider such statements useless to the student, unless accompanied by an explanation, brief if you will, yet measurably clear.

Thus at page 19, § 2, under the general subject of "Bailment," in the chapter on Qualified Property, the subordinate subject of "Pledge" is defined, explained and left thus: "Pledge at C. L. gives right of possession while debt is unsatisfied, and right of sale if debt is not paid in stipulated time (if any), otherwise after demand and reasonable notice."

The book will doubtless be valuable as a handy compendium of the law of Personal Property, though it is so permeated by English statutory modifications of the common law that we fear its usefulness will be largely confined to our brethren "across the pond."

It gives us pleasure, however, to speak with unqualified commendation of two novel and pleasing features which the book contains. In making up the "List of Cases" which precedes the volume the author has added to each case-name a short summary of the citation (see p. 9), thus: "*Barney v. United Telephone Co. (patent infringement)*, 28 Ch. D. 394." This little addition to the usual form, imparts life to the whole list and enables one at a glance to see the law therein represented instead of presenting to the eye a column of names, meaningless until dug out of the ensuing pages.

The other attractive feature consists of a careful "analysis" of the whole book (see p. 141). In the case of a law book we think that a *good* analysis is always helpful, and it is to be

regretted that too few authors appreciate the fact that a little extra labor in this direction is more than compensated for by the increased value which it gives to their work.

T. J. G.

TRADE UNION LAW AND CASES: A TEXT-BOOK RELATING TO TRADE UNIONS AND TO LABOR. By HERMAN COHEN, Barrister, and GEORGE HOWELL, F. S. S. London: Sweet & Maxwell, Limited.

This book will, we doubt not, be of great use to English workingmen and lawyers, while to everyone else it will prove decidedly interesting. The work consists of an introduction in which Mr. George Howell, the well-known sociologist, briefly reviews the legislative history of British trade unions from the repeal of the "Combination Laws," in 1824, until the passage of the "Conciliation Act," in 1896. Following this introduction is the text of all the Acts of Parliament affecting Trade Unions, from the "Trade Union Act," of 1871, till the present day. This text has been carefully annotated, by Herman Cohen, Esq., of the Inner Temple, with notes of and comments upon all judicial decisions decisive or explanatory of the same. The "Appendix" contains a full set of forms prescribed by the English law for the use of unions in complying with the provisions of the "Union Acts" for a system of registration and governmental supervision. It may not be out of place to note here some facts regarding the legal history of English unions gathered from Mr. Howell's excellent introduction (see pp. 1-47).

Until the repeal of the "Combination Laws" in 1824, trade unions were illegal in Great Britain, one of their purposes, that of instituting and maintaining strikes being held to be "in restraint of trade." Mr. Howell points out that even while the "Combination Laws," were in force "Restraint of Trade" was legal and had been for centuries, first, under the old Guild Ordinances and later under the Statute of Laborers and subsequent legislative enactments. After 1824-25, however, trade unions were permitted to exist, though totally unprotected, as to their funds and investments, which were entirely at the mercy of unscrupulous and untrustworthy officials. So serious a defect was this felt to be that English labor leaders employed all their energies for years to remedy it, but without effect, till in 1868 they succeeded in passing what is known as the "Recorder's Act" as a "rider" to the Hon. Russell Gurney's "Co-Partnership Bill." This act provided for the criminal prosecution of defaulting union officials, but afforded no means for the recovery of misapplied property or embezzled funds.

Ample relief was, however, obtained by the passage of the so-